



Intranasal Rhinitis Agents Therapeutic Class Review (TCR)

April 1, 2016

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MANAGEMENTSM

FDA-APPROVED INDICATIONS

Drug	Manufacturer	Indication(s)
Nasal Corticosteroids		
beclomethasone (Beconase AQ®) ¹	GlaxoSmithKline	Relief of symptoms of seasonal or perennial allergic rhinitis and non-allergic (vasomotor) rhinitis in adults and children 6 years of age and older Prevention of recurrence of nasal polyps following surgical removal
beclomethasone (Qnasl™) ²	Teva Respiratory	Treatment of nasal symptoms associated with seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis in adults and adolescents 4 years of age and older
budesonide (Rhinocort Aqua®) ³	AstraZeneca, generic	Management of nasal symptoms of seasonal or perennial allergic rhinitis in adults and children six years of age and older
budesonide OTC (Rhinocort® Allergy) ⁴	Johnson & Johnson	Temporary relief of hay fever or other upper respiratory allergies including nasal congestion, runny nose, sneezing, and itchy nose in adults and children 6 years of age and older
ciclesonide (Omnaris™) ⁵	Sepracor	Treatment of nasal symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis in adults and children 6 years of age and older Treatment of nasal symptoms of perennial allergic rhinitis in adults and children 12 years of age and older
ciclesonide (Zetonna™) ⁶	Sunovion	Treatment of symptoms associated with seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis in adults and adolescents 12 years of age and older
flunisolide (Nasalide, Nasarel) ^{7,8}	generic	Relief of nasal symptoms of seasonal or perennial allergic rhinitis in adults and children 6 years of age and older
fluticasone furoate (Veramyst®) ⁹	GlaxoSmithKline	Treatment of symptoms of seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis in adults and children 2 years of age and older
fluticasone propionate ^{*10}	generic	Management of nasal symptoms of perennial non-allergic rhinitis in adults and children 4 years of age and older
fluticasone propionate OTC (Flonase Allergy Relief®) ¹¹	GlaxoSmithKline, generic	Temporary relief of symptoms of hay fever or other upper respiratory allergies including nasal congestion, runny nose, sneezing, and itchy nose, itchy/watery eyes in adults and children 4 years of age and older
fluticasone propionate (Ticanase™, Ticaspray™) ^{12,13}	PureTek	Treatment of nasal symptoms of perennial non-allergic rhinitis in adults and children 4 years of age and older
mometasone (Nasonex®) ¹⁴	Schering	Treatment of nasal symptoms of seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis in adults and children 2 years of age and older Treatment of nasal congestion associated with seasonal allergic rhinitis in adults and children 2 years of age and older Prophylaxis of nasal symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis in adults and children 12 years of age and older Treatment of nasal polyps in patients 18 years of age and older
triamcinolone ¹⁵	generic	Treatment of nasal symptoms of seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis in adults and children 2 years of age and older
triamcinolone OTC (Nasacort® Allergy 24HR) ¹⁶	Sanofi-Aventis	Temporary relief of symptoms of hay fever or other upper respiratory allergies including nasal congestion, runny nose, sneezing, itchy nose in adults and children 2 years of age and older

FDA-Approved Indications (continued)

Drug	Manufacturer	Indication(s)
Intranasal Antihistamines		
azelastine ¹⁷	generic	Treatment of symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis, such as rhinorrhea, sneezing, and nasal pruritus, in adults and children 5 years of age and older Treatment of symptoms of vasomotor rhinitis, such as rhinorrhea, nasal congestion, and postnasal drip, in adults and children 12 years of age and older
azelastine (Astepro®) ¹⁸	Meda, generic	Relief of symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis in adults and children 2 years of age and older and perennial allergic rhinitis in adults and children 6 months of age and older
olopatadine (Patanase™) ¹⁹	Alcon Labs, generic	Relief of symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis in adults and children 6 years of age and older
Intranasal Corticosteroid and Antihistamine Combinations		
azelastine / fluticasone propionate (Dymista®) ²⁰	Meda	Relief of symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis in patients 6 years of age and older who require treatment with both agents for symptomatic relief
Others		
ipratropium nasal spray 0.03% (Atrovent®) ²¹	generic	Symptomatic relief of rhinorrhea associated with allergic and nonallergic perennial rhinitis in adults and children 6 years of age and older
ipratropium nasal spray 0.06% (Atrovent®) ²²	generic	Symptomatic relief of rhinorrhea associated with the common cold or seasonal allergic rhinitis in adults and children 5 years of age and older

* Brand Flonase was discontinued in January 2015. Flonase Allergy Relief became available February 2015 for over-the-counter (OTC) use. Generic fluticasone propionate is still available with a prescription.

OVERVIEW

Allergic rhinitis is a constellation of symptoms affecting approximately 8% of adults and 8.4% of children in the United States in 2014.²³ The condition is characterized by sneezing, itching of the eyes, nose, and palate, rhinorrhea, and nasal obstruction. It is often associated with post-nasal drip, cough, irritability, and fatigue. Symptoms develop when patients inhale airborne antigens to which they have previously been exposed and have made antibodies. The antibodies bind to receptors on mast cells in respiratory mucosa and to basophils in peripheral blood. Mast cells release pre-formed and granule-associated chemical mediators. In addition, mast cells generate other inflammatory mediators and cytokines, which lead to nasal inflammation and, with continued allergen exposure, chronic symptoms.²⁴

Perennial allergic rhinitis is an IgE-mediated reaction to allergens with little or no seasonal variation. The condition is persistent, chronic, and generally less severe than seasonal allergic rhinitis. Allergic rhinitis is driven by the mucosal infiltration and action on plasma cells, mast cells, and eosinophils as part of an allergic response.

Vasomotor rhinitis, or irritant rhinitis, is a condition of unknown origin, which seems to be aggravated by fumes, odors, temperature, atmospheric changes, smoke, and other irritants. This form of rhinitis (generally a condition diagnosed in adults) causes year-round symptoms that include congestion and headache.

In 2008, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) released an updated practice parameter for the management of rhinitis.²⁵ These guidelines include the removal of the protocol for management of symptoms to a focus on tailoring treatment to patient-specific guidelines. The selection of pharmacotherapy for a patient depends on multiple factors, including the type of rhinitis present (e.g., allergic, non-allergic, mixed, episodic), most prominent symptoms, severity, and patient age. Response to previous treatment, patient and family preferences, compliance with therapy, and cost are additional factors that enter management decisions for the patient with rhinitis. Rhinitis medication management frequently will require consideration of a step-up approach, if therapy is inadequate, or a step-down approach, if symptom relief is achieved or maximized with other approaches, including avoidance measures.

According to these 2008 guidelines, intranasal corticosteroids are the most effective medications for treating allergic rhinitis.²⁶ Second generation oral antihistamines are generally preferred over first generation oral antihistamines for treatment of allergic rhinitis because they have less of a tendency to cause sedation, performance impairment, and/or anticholinergic adverse effects. Intranasal antihistamines have demonstrated efficacy that is equal to or superior to oral second generation antihistamines in the treatment of seasonal allergic rhinitis. These agents are also effective and have been associated with a clinically significant effect on nasal congestion for nonallergic rhinitis, but are generally less effective than intranasal corticosteroids for treatment of allergic rhinitis. Combination therapy with intranasal corticosteroids may provide an added benefit.

The 2013 Diagnosis and Treatment of Respiratory Illness in Children and Adults guideline states that non-infectious rhinitis can be either allergic or non-allergic.²⁷ Symptomatic treatment includes education on antigen avoidance and medication therapy. As with the chronic use of any medications, special consideration of risk and benefit may need to be given to the elderly, fragile patients, pregnant women, athletes, and children. The following medications are for use in patients with allergic rhinitis: antihistamines, decongestants, cromolyn, topical corticosteroids, anticholinergics, and leukotriene receptor antagonists. On the other hand, chronic, obstructive, nasal symptoms secondary to nonallergic rhinitis can be managed with intranasal corticosteroid or antihistamine sprays, oral decongestants, nasal strips, or topical antihistamines. In addition to conservative treatment measures (e.g., increased water intake, nasal saline irrigation, decreased caffeine and alcohol intake, addition of humidity to bedroom if less than 50%, etc.), intranasal corticosteroids are recommended when medical treatment is necessary for symptomatic, non-purulent, chronic postnasal drip. For rhinorrhea due to nonallergic rhinitis, intranasal corticosteroids, intranasal ipratropium, or nasal saline can be used if patients are unable to avoid offending irritants.

The 2015 American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Clinical Practice Guideline for Allergic Rhinitis recommends the use of intranasal steroids and oral antihistamines as first-line treatment for allergic rhinitis in adults and children over 2 years of age.²⁸ The panel issued a strong recommendation for use of intranasal steroids in patients whose quality of life is affected by allergic rhinitis, as well as for oral second generation antihistamines for patients with sneezing and itching as their primary complaints. Clinicians may offer intranasal antihistamines as second-line therapy for patients with seasonal, perennial, or episodic allergic rhinitis, after failure of intranasal steroids or oral antihistamines. There may be specific patients in whom an intranasal antihistamine would be an appropriate first-line treatment. The guideline also recommends combination therapy in patients who have had an inadequate response to monotherapy. The most effective addition to intranasal steroid therapy is an intranasal antihistamine.

PHARMACOLOGY

Following topical administration, corticosteroids produce anti-inflammatory and vasoconstrictor effects. They gain entry into the cell cytoplasm and interact with glucocorticoid receptors. The receptor complex undergoes a conformational change, becoming active prior to entering the cell nucleus. Gene expression is hypothesized to be the principal mechanism of modulating the inflammatory state. Direct effects may be a reduction in cytokine-induced production of pro-inflammatory mediators. Clinical benefits observed with corticosteroids can be attributed to wide-ranging suppressive effects on the immune system and anti-inflammatory mediator production.²⁹

Azelastine (Astepro, Dymista) is a phthalazine derivative, which exhibits histamine (H₁) receptor antagonist activity. Azelastine also demonstrates inhibitory effects on the release of inflammatory mediators from mast cells.³⁰ The drug is 100 to 1,000 times more potent than cromolyn sodium, theophylline, astemizole, and verapamil in mast cell mediator release inhibition.³¹ Olopatadine (Patanase) is an antihistamine with selective H₁ receptor antagonist activity.³²

Ipratropium bromide (Atrovent) is an anticholinergic agent that blocks cholinergic receptors and reflex-mediated hypersecretion from nasal glands. Ipratropium bromide is a quaternary amine, which minimally crosses nasal and gastrointestinal membranes and the blood-brain barrier, resulting in a reduction of systemic anticholinergic effects.

PHARMACOKINETICS

Due to the route of administration, intranasal agents used to treat allergic rhinitis have very poor bioavailability. Pharmacokinetic information is limited and often extrapolated from other dosage forms.

CONTRAINDICATIONS/WARNINGS

There are no specific contraindications for any of the intranasal corticosteroids, azelastine (Astepro, Dymista), or olopatadine (Patanase). Hypersensitivity to any of the ingredients in the nasal spray or inhaler contraindicates its use.^{33,34,35}

Nasal Corticosteroids^{36,37}

If a topical corticosteroid replaces a systemic corticosteroid, signs of adrenal insufficiency may appear. In susceptible individuals, systemic corticosteroid effects, such as hypercorticism and adrenal suppression, may appear. If this occurs, nasal corticosteroid therapy should be slowly discontinued. However, a 6-week clinical trial reported that serum cortisol weighted mean values were similar in patients treated with beclomethasone dipropionate 320 mcg once daily and placebo.³⁸

Patients with immunosuppression are more susceptible to infections than healthy patients. Some patients who use immunosuppressive doses of corticosteroids can acquire more serious and even fatal responses to disseminated infections.

Patients using any of the nasal corticosteroids should be monitored periodically for adverse effects on the nasal mucosa. Instances of epistaxis, nasal ulceration, nasal septa perforations, impaired wound healing, and *Candida albicans* have all been reported. Avoid use in patients with recent nasal ulcers, nasal surgery, or nasal trauma.

The use of nasal corticosteroids could potentiate the development of posterior subcapsular cataracts or glaucoma. Patients should be monitored closely if they have an increase in intraocular pressure, cataracts, glaucoma, or experience any vision change.

Intranasal Antihistamines^{39,40}

Due to somnolence, patients should be advised to assess their individual responses to azelastine (Astepro, Dymista) nasal spray or olopatadine (Patanase) nasal spray before engaging in any activity requiring mental alertness, such as driving a car or operating machinery. Patients should be advised that the concurrent use of azelastine nasal spray or olopatadine nasal spray with alcohol or other central nervous system (CNS) depressants may lead to additional reductions in alertness and impairment of CNS performance and should be avoided. Epistaxis and nasal ulceration have been reported in placebo-controlled clinical trials with olopatadine (Patanase).

Ipratropium (Atrovent) nasal spray should be used with caution in patients with narrow-angle glaucoma, prostatic hyperplasia, or bladder neck obstruction due to anticholinergic properties of ipratropium.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Fluticasone propionate (Flonase Allergy Relief, Dymista, Ticanase, Ticaspray) and furoate (Veramyst) are substrates of cytochrome P450 3A4. Co-administration of fluticasone nasal spray (Flonase Allergy Relief, Veramyst, Dymista, Ticanase, Ticaspray) and protease inhibitors is not recommended. A drug interaction study in healthy patients demonstrated that ritonavir can increase plasma fluticasone levels resulting in significantly reduced serum cortisol concentrations.^{41,42}

Drug-drug interaction studies were not conducted for olopatadine (Patanase) or ipratropium (Atrovent) nasal sprays.^{43,44,45} Based on *in vitro* metabolism data, olopatadine drug interactions involving P450 inhibition are not expected.⁴⁶

ADVERSE EFFECTS

Nasal Corticosteroids

Drug	Pharyngitis	Epistaxis	Cough	Nasal Irritation/discomfort
beclomethasone (Beconase AQ) ⁴⁷	nr	<3	nr	24
beclomethasone (Qnasl) ⁴⁸	nr	1.9	nr	5.2
budesonide (Rhinocort Aqua) ⁴⁹ n=1,526; up to 400 mcg	4	8	2	2
ciclesonide (Omnaris) ⁵⁰ n= 546; up to 200 mcg	3.7	4.9	nr	>1
ciclesonide (Zetonna) ⁵¹	≥2	2.9	≥2	3.2
flunisolide (Nasalide) ⁵²	3–9	3–9	<3	44
flunisolide (Nasarel) ⁵³	<3	3–9	<3	13
fluticasone furoate (Veramyst) ⁵⁴ n=768; 110 mcg	2	6	nr	1
fluticasone propionate (Flonase Allergy Relief, Ticanase, Ticaspray) ^{55,56,57} n=782; 200 mcg	7.8	6.9	3.8	3.2
mometasone (Nasonex) ⁵⁸ n=2,103; 200 mcg	12	11	7	reported
triamcinolone ⁵⁹ n=857; 220 mcg	5.1	2.7	2.1	nr

Adverse effects are reported as a percentage. Adverse effects data are obtained from package inserts and are not meant to be comparative or all inclusive. nr = not reported.

Overall, intranasal corticosteroids are well tolerated in adult and pediatric patients. Serious adverse effects that may result in discontinuation include epistaxis and nasal septal perforation.

A study evaluated whether use of fluticasone propionate, mometasone furoate, or beclomethasone dipropionate for treatment of rhinitis produced an increase in intraocular pressure.⁶⁰ The authors conducted a comparative, double-blind, experimental, prospective, longitudinal study in which 360 patients were randomized into 1 of 4 groups. Ninety patients were given a placebo (control group). The other 270 were divided into 3 groups of 90 patients each. A different nasal corticosteroid was given to each group. All patients had intraocular pressure measured by Goldman's tonometry at 3 weeks, 6 weeks, 3 months, 6 months, and 1 year after using placebo or intranasal steroid. Fluticasone propionate, mometasone furoate, and beclomethasone dipropionate caused variations in intraocular pressure, but the variations were within normal limits.

Intranasal Antihistamines

Drug	Bitter Taste/ Taste disturbance	Headache	Myalgia	Nasal Burning	Somnolence	Weight Increase
azelastine ⁶¹ n=391 placebo n=353	19.7 (0.6)	14.8 (12.7)	1.5 (0)	4.1 (1.7)	11.5 (5.4)	2 (0)
azelastine 0.1% (Astepro) ⁶² n=146; vehicle n=138	7 (2)	3 (<1)	nr	1 (0)	2 (0)	nr
azelastine 0.15% (Astepro) ⁶³ n=523; vehicle n=523	6 (1)	nr	nr	3 (2)	<1 (<1)	nr
olopatadine (Patanase) ⁶⁴ n=587 vehicle n=593	12.8 (0.8)	4.4 (4.0)	nr	nr	0.9 (0.3)	nr
azelastine / fluticasone propionate (Dymista) ⁶⁵	4 (<1)	2 (1)	nr	nr	<1	nr

Adverse effects are reported as a percentage. Adverse effects data are obtained from package inserts and are not meant to be comparative or all inclusive. Incidences for placebo group are in parentheses. nr = not reported

Others

Drug	Nasal dryness	Nasal Irritation	Epistaxis	Dry mouth/throat
ipratropium nasal 0.03% (Atrovent) ⁶⁶ n=356 perennial allergic rhinitis	5.1	2	9	<2
ipratropium nasal 0.06% (Atrovent) ⁶⁷ n=352 common cold	4.8	Nasal burning <1	8.2	1.4

Adverse effects are reported as a percentage. Adverse effects data are obtained from package inserts and are not meant to be comparative or all inclusive.

Monitoring

In children, intranasal corticosteroids should be used at the lowest effective dose, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends that height be routinely monitored due to potential reduction in growth velocity.^{68,69}

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Pediatrics

All agents in this class are approved in pediatrics. Please refer to the FDA-Approved Indications chart or to the individual package inserts for specific age criteria. Ciclesonide (Zetonna) has not been approved in ages less than 12 years old.

Controlled clinical studies have shown that intranasal corticosteroids may cause a reduction in growth velocity in pediatric patients; however, the impact on final adult height is unknown.

Pregnancy

Azelastine (Astepro, Dymista), olopatadine (Patanase), and all of the intranasal corticosteroids except budesonide (Rhinocort Aqua) are Pregnancy Category C. Ipratropium (Atrovent) and budesonide (Rhinocort Aqua) are Pregnancy Category B.

Other Considerations: Renal, Hepatic, Race, etc.

Reduced liver function may affect the elimination of corticosteroids. The relevance of this finding to intranasal administration of corticosteroids has not been established. Ipratropium (Atrovent) and olopatadine (Patanase) have not been studied in patients with hepatic impairment. Ipratropium (Atrovent) has not been studied in patients with renal impairment.

DOSAGES

Drug	Adults (>12 years)*	Children (<12 years)	Availability
Nasal Corticosteroids			
beclomethasone (Beconase AQ) ⁷⁰	1–2 sprays in each nostril twice daily	(≥ 6 years) 1–2 sprays in each nostril twice daily	42 mcg/spray 25 gm–180 sprays
beclomethasone (Qnasl) ⁷¹	2 sprays in each nostril once daily (Qnasl 80mcg) (maximum 4 sprays per day)	(4–11 years) 1 spray in each nostril daily (Qnasl 40mcg) (maximum 2 sprays per day)	40 mcg/spray 8.7 gm–60 or 120 actuations 80 mcg/spray 8.7 gm–120 actuations
budesonide (Rhinocort Aqua) ⁷²	1–4 sprays in each nostril daily	(≥ 6 years) 1 – 2 sprays in each nostril daily	32 mcg/spray 8.6 gm–120 sprays
budesonide OTC (Rhinocort Allergy) ⁷³	2 sprays in each nostril daily	(≥ 6 years) 1 – 2 sprays in each nostril daily	32 mcg/spray 5 mL – 60 sprays
ciclesonide (Omnaris) ⁷⁴	2 sprays in each nostril daily	(≥ 6 years) 2 sprays in each nostril daily	50 mcg/spray 12.5 gm–120 sprays
ciclesonide (Zetonna) ⁷⁵	1 spray in each nostril daily		37 mcg/spray 6.1 gm–60 actuations
flunisolide (Nasalide) ⁷⁶	2 sprays in each nostril twice daily	(≥ 6 years) 1 spray in each nostril 3 times daily or 2 sprays in each nostril twice daily	25 mcg aerosol 25 mL–200 doses (only available generically)
flunisolide (Nasarel) ⁷⁷	2 sprays in each nostril twice daily up to 8 sprays in each nostril daily	(≥ 6 years) 1 spray in each nostril 3 times daily or 2 sprays in each nostril twice daily	25 mcg/spray 25 mL–200 sprays (only available generically)
fluticasone furoate (Veramyst) ⁷⁸	2 sprays in each nostril daily	(≥ 2 years) 1–2 sprays in each nostril daily	27.5 mcg/spray 10 gm–120 sprays
fluticasone propionate ⁷⁹	2 sprays in each nostril daily or 1 spray in each nostril twice daily	(≥ 4 years) 1 spray in each nostril daily May increase to a max of 2 sprays per nostril for severe symptoms	50 mcg/spray 16 gm–120 sprays
fluticasone propionate (Ticanase, Ticaspray) ^{80,81}	fluticasone propionate: 2 sprays in each nostril daily or 1 spray in each nostril twice daily saline nasal spray: use only as directed	(≥ 4 years) fluticasone propionate: 1 spray in each nostril daily May increase to a max of 2 sprays per nostril if not adequately responding saline nasal spray: use only as directed	Kit containing fluticasone propionate nasal spray (50 mcg/spray 16 gm – 120 actuations) and saline nasal spray (6 fl oz)
fluticasone propionate OTC (Flonase Allergy Relief) ⁸²	Week 1: 2 sprays in each nostril once daily; Week 2 through 6 months: 1 – 2 sprays in each nostril once daily as needed	(4–11 years) 1 spray in each nostril daily	50 mcg/spray 16 gm–120 sprays*

*One generic formulation is available under the trade name ClariSpray™.

Dosages (continued)

Drug	Adults (>12 years)*	Children (<12 years)	Availability
Nasal Corticosteroids (continued)			
mometasone (Nasonex) ⁸³	2 sprays in each nostril daily Adults 18 years and older: Nasal polyps: 2 sprays in each nostril twice daily	(≥ 2 years) 1 spray in each nostril daily	50 mcg/spray 17 gm–120 sprays
triamcinolone ⁸⁴	2 sprays in each nostril daily	(2–5 years) 1 spray in each nostril daily (6–12 years) 1–2 sprays in each nostril daily	55 mcg/spray 16.5 gm – 120 sprays
triamcinolone OTC (Nasacort® Allergy 24 HR) ⁸⁵	2 sprays in each nostril daily	(2–5 years) 1 spray in each nostril daily (6–12 years) 1–2 sprays in each nostril daily	55 mcg/spray 16.5 gm–120 sprays
Intranasal Antihistamines			
azelastine ⁸⁶	Seasonal allergic rhinitis: 1–2 sprays in each nostril twice daily Vasomotor rhinitis: 2 sprays in each nostril twice daily	Seasonal allergic rhinitis: (≥ 5 years) 1 spray in each nostril twice daily	137 mcg/spray 30 mL–200 sprays
azelastine (Astepro) ⁸⁷	Seasonal allergic rhinitis: 1–2 sprays in each nostril twice daily (Astepro 0.1% and 0.15%) or 2 sprays in each nostril once daily (Astepro 0.15%) Perennial allergic rhinitis: 2 sprays in each nostril twice daily (Astepro 0.15%)	Seasonal allergic rhinitis: (2–5 years) 1 spray in each nostril twice daily (Astepro 0.1%) (6–11 years) 1 spray in each nostril twice daily (Astepro 0.1% and 0.15%) Perennial allergic rhinitis: (6 months–5 years) 1 spray in each nostril twice daily (Astepro 0.1%) (6–11 years) 1 spray in each nostril twice daily (Astepro 0.1% and 0.15%)	137 mcg/spray 30 mL–200 sprays (Astepro 0.1%) 205.5 mcg/spray 30 mL–200 sprays (Astepro 0.15%) Discard once spray capacity has been reached even if not empty
olopatadine (Patanase) ⁸⁸	2 sprays in each nostril twice daily	(≥ 6 years) 1 spray in each nostril twice daily	0.6% (665 mcg/100 mL spray) 30.5 gm–240 sprays
Intranasal Corticosteroid and Antihistamine Combinations			
azelastine / fluticasone propionate (Dymista®) ⁸⁹	1 spray in each nostril twice daily	(≥ 6 years) 1 spray in each nostril twice daily	137 mcg/ 50 mcg per spray 23 gm–120 sprays

Dosages (continued)

Drug	Adults (>12 years)*	Children (<12 years)	Availability
Others			
ipratropium 0.03% (Atrovent) ⁹⁰	Perennial allergic rhinitis: 2 sprays in each nostril 2 or 3 times daily	(≥ 6 years) 2 sprays in each nostril 2 or 3 times daily	21 mcg/spray 30 mL–345 sprays
ipratropium 0.06% (Atrovent) ⁹¹	Seasonal allergic rhinitis: 2 sprays in each nostril 4 times daily	(≥ 5 years) 2 sprays in each nostril 4 times daily	42 mcg/spray 15 mL–165 sprays
ipratropium 0.06% (Atrovent) ⁹²	Common cold: 2 sprays in each nostril 3 or 4 times daily not to exceed 4 days	(≥ 5 years) 2 sprays in each nostril 3 times daily not to exceed 4 days	

For fluticasone, some patients 12 years of age and older have found as-needed usage of 200 mcg once daily (2 sprays in each nostril) to be an effective treatment of seasonal allergic rhinitis.

For all products listed above, the pump must be primed prior to first use and again if stored unused after a certain period of time (which are product specific). Consult package inserts.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Search Strategy

Articles were identified through searches performed on PubMed and review of information sent by manufacturers. Search strategy included the FDA-approved use of all drugs in this class and allergic rhinitis. Randomized, controlled, comparative trials are considered the most relevant in this category. Studies included for analysis in the review were published in English, performed with human participants and randomly allocated participants to comparison groups. In addition, studies must contain clearly stated, predetermined outcome measure(s) of known or probable clinical importance, use data analysis techniques consistent with the study question and include follow-up (endpoint assessment) of at least 80% of participants entering the investigation. Despite some inherent bias found in all studies including those sponsored and/or funded by pharmaceutical manufacturers, the studies in this therapeutic class review were determined to have results or conclusions that do not suggest systematic error in their experimental study design. While the potential influence of manufacturer sponsorship and/or funding must be considered, the studies in this review have also been evaluated for validity and importance. Many of the trials with agents in this class were performed in an open-label manner; introduction of bias must be considered when evaluating study findings.

Seasonal Allergic Rhinitis

beclomethasone (Vancenase) versus mometasone (Nasonex)

A double-blind, placebo-controlled study enrolled 501 patients with moderate-to-severe seasonal allergic rhinitis.⁹³ Patients were treated for 4 weeks with either mometasone 100 mcg once daily in the morning, mometasone 200 mcg once daily in the morning, beclomethasone 200 mcg twice daily, or placebo. The study permitted patients to use oral loratadine (Claritin®) 10 mg once daily as rescue medication for intolerable symptoms. Based on physician-rated and patient-rated nasal symptom scores, total symptom scores, global evaluation of overall condition, and response to treatment, all active treatment regimens were more effective than placebo, although no differences among regimens were observed. Complete or marked relief, based on physician-evaluated response to treatment, was

achieved by 77% of patients treated with mometasone 100 mcg once daily, 79% treated with mometasone 200 mcg once daily, 74% treated with beclomethasone, and 54% of placebo-treated patients ($p < 0.01$ for each active treatment compared to placebo). Use of rescue antihistamine was reduced in all 3 active treatment groups compared to the placebo group, with 41% of patients in the mometasone 100 mcg group, 34% in the mometasone 200 mcg group, and 35% in the beclomethasone group requiring rescue medication, compared with 55% of patients in the placebo group ($p < 0.05$ for all comparisons to placebo). Rate of adverse effects did not differ among active treatments.

beclomethasone (Qnasl) versus placebo

A 2-week trial evaluated the efficacy of beclomethasone nasal aerosol in 338 adult and adolescent patients 12 years and older with seasonal allergic rhinitis.⁹⁴ Assessment of efficacy was based on the total nasal symptom score (TNSS). Mean change from baseline in TNSS was greater for beclomethasone compared to placebo (-2 versus -1, respectively; $p < 0.001$). Statistically significant greater decreases from baseline morning instantaneous nasal symptom score (iTNSS) were also seen with beclomethasone compared to placebo (-1.7 versus -0.8, respectively; $p < 0.001$).

budesonide (Rhinocort) versus mometasone (Nasonex)

In a double-blind, crossover design study, 38 patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis received treatment with spray formulations of placebo, budesonide 64 mcg, budesonide 256 mcg, and mometasone furoate 200 mcg.⁹⁵ Treatment was initiated for 3 days prior to allergen challenges and administered daily for 7 days while intranasal treatment continued. Active treatments reduced nasal symptoms and improved nasal peak inspiratory flow (PIF) ($p < 0.001$ to 0.05). Budesonide caused dose-dependent improvements in evening symptoms, morning nasal PIF, and nasal PIF recorded 10 minutes after allergen challenge ($p < 0.05$). Budesonide 256 mcg produced greater improvement than mometasone 200 mcg in nasal PIF 10 minutes after allergen challenge ($p < 0.05$).

azelastine versus placebo

Two studies were conducted in the United States with 554 patients with moderate-to-severe seasonal allergic rhinitis who were still symptomatic after a 1-week placebo lead-in period.⁹⁶ Patients were randomized to 2 weeks of double-blind treatment with azelastine nasal spray 1 spray per nostril twice daily or placebo nasal spray. The primary efficacy variable was change from baseline in total nasal symptom score consisting of sneezing, itchy nose, runny nose, and nasal congestion. Mean differences in total nasal symptom score between the azelastine and placebo groups were significant in both studies: 2.69 versus 1.31 ($p = 0.01$) in study-1 and 3.68 versus 2.50 ($p = 0.02$) in study-2.

In another randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial, azelastine nasal spray 0.15% was tested to determine whether an increased concentration provided seasonal allergic rhinitis symptom relief without increasing adverse effects.⁹⁷ The study included 536 patients who were randomized to either receive azelastine nasal spray 0.15% 2 sprays in each nostril once daily or placebo. A 12-hour reflective Total Nasal Symptom Score (TNSS) was performed indicating azelastine was statistically superior in improving seasonal allergic rhinitis symptoms compared to placebo, 19% versus 10%, respectively ($p \leq 0.001$). Additionally, a 24-hour instantaneous TNSS was measured which proved azelastine nasal spray 0.15% was superior to placebo and supported azelastine nasal spray 0.15% being effective as once daily dosing ($p \leq 0.001$). Patients treated in both groups had similar incidence of adverse effects, with the exception of bitter taste and nasal discomfort being higher in the azelastine nasal spray 0.15%

group. Overall, azelastine nasal spray 0.15% once daily treatment was well tolerated and effective in treating seasonal allergic rhinitis symptoms.

azelastine versus azelastine plus fexofenadine (Allegra®)

In a 2-week, multicenter, double-blind trial, 334 patients with moderate-to-severe seasonal allergic rhinitis were randomized to 1 of 3 treatments: 1) azelastine 2 sprays per nostril twice daily, 2) azelastine 2 sprays per nostril twice daily and fexofenadine 60 mg twice daily, or 3) placebo given twice daily.⁹⁸ All patients were given a 1-week run-in with fexofenadine 60 mg twice daily. Patients who improved less than 33% were randomized to 1 of the 3 regimens. After 14 days of treatment, the azelastine and azelastine plus fexofenadine groups showed greater improvement in total nasal symptom score than placebo ($p=0.007$). Azelastine alone was as effective as azelastine plus fexofenadine.

azelastine versus azelastine (Astepro)

A randomized, double-blind, parallel-group study containing 835 patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis was performed comparing the efficacy of reformulated azelastine nasal spray (Astepro) to the original azelastine formulation (Astelin) and determined if a dose-response relationship existed.⁹⁹ The patients were randomized into 6 groups: original azelastine nasal spray 1 spray per nostril twice daily; reformulated azelastine 1 spray per nostril twice daily; placebo nasal spray 1 spray per nostril twice daily; original azelastine nasal spray 2 sprays per nostril twice daily; reformulated azelastine nasal spray 2 sprays per nostril twice daily; and placebo nasal spray 2 sprays per nostril twice daily. The study concluded the original and reformulated azelastine products had comparable improvements in the 12-hour reflective Total Nasal Symptom Score (TNSS) in both dosages after 14 weeks. Patients treated with original ($p\leq 0.01$) and reformulated azelastine ($p\leq 0.001$) nasal spray groups at dosages of 2 sprays per nostril twice daily had a change in TNSS baseline that was statistically superior to placebo, 23.5%, 27.9%, and 15.4%, respectively. However, the original and reformulated azelastine nasal spray groups dosed at 1 spray per nostril were not statistically significant compared to placebo which was attributed to an abnormally high placebo response rate (19%). The study further determined a TNSS dose-response difference favoring the higher dosages existed. The incidence of adverse effects was low for both dosage formulations. Both azelastine groups reported bitter taste as the most common adverse effect, and nasal discomfort was more prevalent in the original azelastine product. Overall, the study's results indicated both formulations are effective in treating seasonal allergic rhinitis symptoms and a dose-response difference was present.

azelastine versus fluticasone propionate

In a double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group trial, 610 patients with moderate-to-severe SAR patients (≥ 12 years old) were randomized to receive azelastine (137 mcg/spray) or fluticasone propionate (50 mcg/spray), both given as 1 spray/nostril twice daily.¹⁰⁰ The primary efficacy measure was change from baseline in reflective total nasal symptom score (rTNSS) (morning and evening), over 14 days. Reflective total ocular symptom score (rTOSS), reflective total of seven symptom scores (rT7SS [nasal plus ocular symptoms]) and time to $\geq 50\%$ reduction from baseline in these parameters were secondary measures. Both drugs reduced rTNSS from baseline by a similar degree (-3.25 versus -3.84; $p=0.2014$). Patients experienced comparable improvement in rTOSS (-2.62 versus -2.17; $p=0.2371$) and rT7SS (-5.83 versus -6.05; $p=0.7820$). Fluticasone propionate was favored over azelastine in alleviating rhinorrhea (-1.15 versus -0.87; $p=0.0433$), but azelastine showed comparable efficacy for all other

nasal and ocular symptoms. There was no clinically or statistically significant difference between azelastine (-1.17) and fluticasone propionate (-1.43) for reduction in the overall rhinitis quality of life questionnaire score; although fluticasone propionate, but not azelastine, significantly differed from placebo. A similar proportion of patients in the azelastine and fluticasone propionate groups achieved a 50% reduction in rTNSS. However, more azelastine patients (53%) exhibited a 50% reduction in rTOSS by day 14 than FP patients (40%), and this endpoint occurred at least 3 days earlier with azelastine ($p=0.028$).

ciclesonide nasal (Omnaris) versus placebo

Four randomized, double-blind, parallel-group, multicenter, placebo-controlled clinical trials of 2 weeks to 1 year in duration conducted on adolescents and adults with allergic rhinitis evaluated safety and efficacy of ciclesonide.¹⁰¹

Efficacy of ciclesonide was supported by three 2- to 6-week trials in 1,524 patients, including 79 adolescents. Results showed that ciclesonide nasal spray 200 mcg/day yielded significantly greater decreases in nasal symptom score, as evaluated by self-recorded severity of nasal symptoms (runny nose, nasal itching, sneezing, and nasal congestion; $p<0.001$ for all trials). Statistically significant differences in morning predose total nasal symptom scores indicated that the effect was maintained for the full 24-hour dosing interval. In the trials, onset of effect occurred within 24 to 48 hours with further symptomatic improvement observed during 1 to 2 weeks in seasonal allergic rhinitis and 5 weeks in perennial allergic rhinitis.

The fourth trial was a 52-week, long-term safety trial that included 663 adults and adolescent patients (441 treated with ciclesonide: 227 males and 436 females). The trial showed that ciclesonide-treated patients achieved greater decreases in total nasal symptom scores compared with those receiving placebo; these decreases were maintained for the entire 52-week period. Adverse events were considered infrequent and generally mild.

ciclesonide nasal (Zetonna) versus placebo

Two separate 2-week placebo-controlled, double-blind trials evaluated the efficacy of ciclesonide nasal aerosol at doses of 74 mcg or 148 mcg once daily in patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis.¹⁰² The primary efficacy endpoint was change from baseline of the average of morning and evening rTNSS averaged over the 2-week treatment period. Mean change in rTNSS was significantly greater for ciclesonide 74 mcg once daily compared to placebo (-1.5 versus -0.5, respectively; $p<0.001$). Statistically significant differences in the morning pre-dose instantaneous total nasal symptom score (iTNSS) indicate that the effect was maintained over the full 24-hour dosing interval ($p<0.001$). Ciclesonide nasal aerosol 148 mcg once daily did not provide an efficacy benefit over the 74 mcg once daily dose.

fluticasone furoate (Veramyst) versus placebo

A double-blind, parallel-group, randomized trial was conducted in 299 patients aged 12 years or older with seasonal allergic rhinitis.¹⁰³ Patients were randomized to fluticasone furoate 110 mcg once daily or placebo. A 4-point scale was used to evaluate ocular and nasal symptoms at baseline and at 2 weeks. Total nasal symptom score improvement was the primary endpoint. Fluticasone furoate produced significantly greater improvements than placebo in daily reflective total nasal symptom scores (-1.473, $p<0.001$), morning predose instantaneous total nasal symptom score (-1.375, $p<0.001$),

daily reflective total ocular symptom score (-0.600 , $p=0.004$), and patient-rated overall response to therapy ($p<0.001$). The mean onset of therapeutic effect occurred 8 hours after initial administration. Fluticasone furoate was well tolerated. Active treatment resulted in sustained improvement in nasal and ocular symptoms over 24 hours.

Another randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study compared the efficacy of fluticasone furoate 55 mcg, 110 mcg, and placebo once daily in children ($n=554$) with seasonal allergic rhinitis symptoms.¹⁰⁴ During the 2-week study, patients recorded their allergy symptoms and rated them using a categorical scale. Evaluators used the assessments to determine reflective and instantaneous Total Nasal Symptoms Scores. Each treatment group consisted of 25% of the children being ages 2 to younger than 6 years old and 75% of the children being 6 to 11 years old. Due to the subjectivity of the assessment and difficulty assessing very young patients, examiners used efficacy data for the intent to treat patient population of ages 6 to 11 years old ($n=448$) in the primary efficacy analysis. The entire intent to treat group (ages 2 through 11) were used in supportive and safety data. The primary efficacy data concluded fluticasone furoate 110 mcg daily significantly improved seasonal allergic rhinitis symptoms compared to placebo. However, there was not a statistically significant improvement in efficacy in patients taking fluticasone furoate 55 mcg daily compared to placebo. When examining the entire intent to treat population, ages 2 through 11, the same efficacy outcomes resulted. Furthermore, both doses of once daily fluticasone furoate were well tolerated in the pediatric population for the treatment of seasonal allergic rhinitis.

fluticasone furoate (Veramyst) versus fluticasone propionate (Flonase)

A randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind, cross-over study was conducted in 360 patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis symptoms to compare the preferences for fluticasone furoate and fluticasone propionate nasal sprays after 1 week of treatment.¹⁰⁵ Patients were randomized to active treatment (fluticasone furoate 110 mcg, or fluticasone propionate 200 mcg, followed by crossover treatment for 1 week each) or matched placebo sequence with a 1 week washout before crossover dosing. The primary efficacy endpoints were measured by change from baseline during 1 week in daily reflective total nasal symptom score (rTNSS) that assessed severity of rhinorrhea, nasal congestion, nasal itching, and sneezing. Patient preference was assessed at the end of the study by questionnaire. Both fluticasone furoate and fluticasone propionate each reduced the daily rTNSS compared with their respective placebos (least squares mean [SD] difference, -0.8 [0.24], $p<0.001$, and -0.6 [0.24], $p=0.01$, respectively). More patients ($p<0.001$) preferred fluticasone furoate to fluticasone propionate based on attributes of scent or odor (58% versus 27%), aftertaste (60% versus 18%), leaking out of the nose and down the throat (59% versus 21%), and mist gentleness (57% versus 26%). However, there were no statistically significant differences seen in preferences regarding ease of use, delivery method, or device comfort.

olopatadine hydrochloride nasal spray 0.6% (Patanase) versus azelastine hydrochloride nasal spray 0.1% versus placebo

A study was conducted as a phase III, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, active and placebo-controlled parallel group study.¹⁰⁶ It included 544 individuals who were ≥ 12 years with a history of seasonal allergic rhinitis and verified allergy to a prevalent local allergen. Efficacy was assessed by changes in mean daily total nasal symptom scores (TNSS). Tolerability was evaluated based on adverse events, as well as nasal, physical, and cardiovascular parameters. Patients were randomly assigned olopatadine, azelastine, or placebo given as 2 sprays in each nostril twice daily for 16 days. The mean

reductions from baseline in reflective TNSS were 26.8% with olopatadine, 29.9% with azelastine, and 18.4% with placebo ($p=0.003$, for olopatadine versus placebo). The most commonly reported adverse effect of bitter taste was significantly lower with olopatadine than with azelastine (12.2% with olopatadine and 19.7% with azelastine, $p=0.05$). In conclusion, the total nasal symptom scores (TNSS) percentage reduction was greater with olopatadine than placebo but not significantly different from azelastine. Both active treatments were well tolerated.

olopatadine hydrochloride nasal spray 0.6% (Patanase) versus fluticasone propionate nasal spray 50 mcg (Flonase)

A 2-week double-blind, randomized, 2-arm parallel-group, noninferiority trial was conducted comparing olopatadine nasal spray 0.6% (2 sprays per nostril twice daily) to fluticasone nasal spray 50 mcg (2 sprays per nostril once daily) for the treatment of seasonal allergic rhinitis.¹⁰⁷ Symptomatic patients ($n=130$) were equally divided between the 2 groups and required to record nasal and ocular symptoms twice daily throughout the study. The study found olopatadine nasal spray 0.6% provided a faster and greater onset of action compared to fluticasone nasal spray 50 mcg. However, at the end of the 2-week study, olopatadine nasal spray 0.6% compared to fluticasone nasal spray 50 mcg had no statistically significant difference in relief of seasonal allergic rhinitis symptoms with a mean reduction of 45.4% and 47.4%, respectively.

azelastine / fluticasone propionate (Dymista) versus azelastine versus fluticasone versus placebo

Adult patients and children 12 years and older ($n=853$) with seasonal allergic rhinitis were enrolled in 3 randomized, double-blind, placebo- and active-controlled, parallel-group, trials.¹⁰⁸ Patients were randomized to 1 spray twice daily of azelastine/fluticasone propionate combination nasal spray, azelastine nasal spray, fluticasone propionate nasal spray, or vehicle placebo. In all 3 trials, combination therapy demonstrated statistically significant greater decreases in rTNSS (-5.6 versus -4.3 versus -4.7 versus -2.9, respectively; $p\leq 0.002$ for all) and iTNSS (-5.2 versus -3.9 versus -4.5 versus -2.7, respectively; $p<0.001$ for all) as compared to azelastine hydrochloride and to fluticasone propionate, as well as to placebo.

Perennial Allergic Rhinitis

ipratropium nasal spray 0.03% (Atrovent) versus beclomethasone nasal spray (Beconase AQ)

In a multicenter randomized trial, ipratropium nasal spray 0.03% (42 mcg 3 times daily) and beclomethasone nasal spray (84 mcg twice daily) were evaluated for efficacy and safety alone and in combination versus a vehicle placebo with perennial allergic rhinitis.¹⁰⁹ The study enrolled 533 patients. Efficacy was evaluated by patient and physician assessment of severity and duration of rhinorrhea. Combination therapy was more effective than either agent alone in reducing average severity and duration of rhinorrhea during 4 weeks of treatment. During the first week of treatment, ipratropium had faster onset of action and reduced rhinorrhea more than beclomethasone. Beclomethasone was more effective in reducing the severity of congestion and sneezing than ipratropium nasal spray. Combination therapy and monotherapy showed similar adverse effects.

beclomethasone (Qnasl) versus placebo

A 6-week placebo-controlled trial evaluated the efficacy and safety of beclomethasone 320 mcg once daily administered as 2 sprays per nostril in 466 adult and adolescent patients 12 years and older with perennial allergic rhinitis.^{110,111} Assessment of efficacy was based on the rTNSS and iTNSS. The primary endpoint, mean change from baseline in average morning and evening rTNSS over 6 weeks, was greater for beclomethasone compared to placebo (-2.5 versus -1.6, respectively; $p < 0.001$). Greater improvements were seen for all 4 individual nasal symptoms (nasal congestion, nasal itching, rhinorrhea, and sneezing) with beclomethasone compared with placebo. Statistically significant greater decreases from baseline in average morning and evening iTNSS were also seen with beclomethasone compared to placebo (-2.1 versus -1.4, respectively; $p < 0.001$). In addition, there was a statistically significant greater difference in Rhinoconjunctivitis Quality of Life Questionnaire (RQLQ) score at week 6 for adult subjects with impaired quality of life at baseline (-0.58; $p = 0.001$) in subjects with impaired quality of life at baseline. The safety profile of beclomethasone was similar to that of placebo.

ciclesonide nasal (Zetonna) versus placebo

A 26-week double-blind trial evaluated the efficacy of ciclesonide nasal aerosol 74 mcg and 148 mcg once daily in patients with perennial allergic rhinitis compared with placebo.¹¹² The primary efficacy endpoint was change from baseline of the average of morning and evening rTNSS averaged over the first 6 weeks of treatment. Mean change in rTNSS was significantly greater for ciclesonide 74 mcg once daily compared to placebo (-2 versus -1.3, respectively; $p < 0.001$). Statistically significant differences in the morning pre-dose iTNSS score indicate that the effect was maintained over the full 24-hour dosing interval. Ciclesonide nasal aerosol 148 mcg once daily did not provide an efficacy benefit over the 74 mcg once daily dose.

fluticasone propionate (Flonase) versus mometasone (Nasonex)

In a double-blind, placebo-controlled study, 550 patients with perennial allergic rhinitis were randomized to receive intranasal mometasone 200 mcg, fluticasone 200 mcg, or placebo once daily for 3 months.¹¹³ Both drugs were better than placebo in controlling symptoms and decreasing nasal symptom scores. Reduction from baseline in patient-recorded nasal symptoms ranged from 37 to 63% with mometasone, 39 to 60% with fluticasone, and 22 to 39% with placebo. Physician-evaluated reduction of nasal discharge and congestion was greatest with mometasone, but both drugs showed greater reductions than placebo. The number of symptom-free days during the study was 10 days with mometasone, 11 days with fluticasone, and 4 days with placebo. At the end of the 3-month treatment period, the percentage of patients classified as having complete or marked relief was 69% with mometasone, 60% with fluticasone, and 36% with placebo.

In a prospective, controlled study, 94 patients aged 6 to 12 years were randomized to receive 100 mcg mometasone nasal spray (1 spray/nostril) daily or 100 mcg fluticasone propionate nasal spray (1 spray/nostril) daily for 4 weeks.¹¹⁴ The patients, with parental assistance as needed, completed the Pediatric Rhinoconjunctivitis Quality of Life Questionnaire (PRQLQ). Physical examinations, nasal smears for eosinophil percent, and nasal-peak expiratory flow rate (nPEFR) tests were performed. Patients' total symptom score (TSS) was the sum of the 8 recorded symptom scores. An independent-sample *t* test was used to compare the rate of improvement in the mean nasal PEFR, the mean PRQLQ score (for each question), and the mean TSS for the 2 groups. Baseline TSS and each symptom score were calculated as the mean of the daily scores during the baseline period of 7 days. Patients in the

mometasone group exhibited a significant improvement in their TSS ($t = -2.65$, $p < 0.05$). A detailed TSS analysis showed mometasone to be more effective for relieving nasal symptoms, whereas fluticasone propionate was more effective for relieving non-nasal symptoms. Patient questionnaire scores suggested a significant reduction in symptoms for both the mometasone ($t = -7.23$, $p < 0.01$) and fluticasone propionate ($t = -5.43$, $p < 0.01$) groups.

fluticasone furoate (Veramyst) versus placebo

In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study, 806 patients with perennial allergic rhinitis were randomized to once daily fluticasone furoate nasal spray 110 mcg ($n=605$) or vehicle placebo spray ($n=201$) for 12 months to address the long term safety of fluticasone furoate.¹¹⁵ Fluticasone furoate was well tolerated, and the incidence of adverse effects was similar to that of placebo, with the exception of epistaxis which was more common in those receiving active treatment. No differences between fluticasone furoate and placebo for changes in ophthalmic parameters and 24-hour urine cortisol excretion were observed. Long-term use of fluticasone furoate 110 mcg daily over 12 months was found to have an adverse effect profile similar to other intranasal corticosteroids, and there was no evidence of clinically significant systemic corticosteroid exposure.

budesonide aqueous nasal (Rhinocort Aqua) versus placebo

In a 1-year, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter study, 229 prepubertal children (mean age of 5.9 years) were randomized to receive budesonide aqueous nasal spray 64 mcg once daily (32 mcg per nostril) or placebo.¹¹⁶ Growth velocity was not significantly different between the 2 groups (5.91 \pm 0.11 cm per year for the budesonide group versus 6.19 \pm 0.16 cm for the placebo group). Treatment with budesonide for 1 year did not suppress the growth velocity compared with placebo and was well tolerated in prepubertal children with perennial allergic rhinitis.

triamcinolone acetate aqueous nasal versus placebo

A multicenter, double-blind, parallel-group study conducted over 4 weeks was performed to establish efficacy and safety of triamcinolone acetate aqueous nasal spray in children 2 to 5 years old.¹¹⁷ Children ($n=474$) with perennial allergic rhinitis were randomized to receive either triamcinolone acetate aqueous nasal spray 110 mcg or placebo once daily. The instantaneous and reflective Total Nasal Symptom Score (TNSS) were used to compare triamcinolone acetate aqueous nasal spray to placebo. Patient treated with triamcinolone acetate aqueous nasal spray had a mean reduction in instantaneous TNSS of -2.28 whereas patients using placebo had a mean reduction of -1.92. Likewise, triamcinolone acetate aqueous nasal spray proved superior to placebo with a mean reduction in reflective TNSS of -2.31 and -1.87, respectively. The rates of adverse effects were similar between the triamcinolone acetate aqueous nasal spray and placebo groups. Furthermore, no serious adverse effects were reported in either group and discontinuation rates were low. Overall, the study results suggest that triamcinolone acetate aqueous nasal spray 110 mcg used once daily for 6 months in children ages 2 through 5 is an efficacious and safe choice when treating perennial allergic rhinitis symptoms. Important to note is that a subset of children were later included in an open-label extension of this study.

mometasone (Nasonex) versus placebo

A double-blind, 4-week, placebo-controlled study was conducted to evaluate the efficacy of mometasone on nasal symptoms, nasal patency, sleep variables, quality of life, and daytime functioning in 30 adults with perennial allergic rhinitis and concomitant moderate rhinitis-disturbed sleep (RDS).¹¹⁸ Patients were randomized 2: 1 to receive mometasone furoate 200 mcg or placebo each morning. The primary endpoint was the apnea-hypopnea index. Secondary outcome measures included changes in total nasal symptom score (TNSS), nighttime symptom score, daytime peak nasal inspiratory flow, nighttime flow limitation index, Rhinoconjunctivitis Quality of Life Questionnaire-Standardized (RQLQ-S) score, Epworth Sleepiness Scale score, and Work Productivity and Activities Impairment-Allergy Specific (WPAI-AS) questionnaire score. The apnea-hypopnea index at study end was not statistically significantly different between groups. However, patients receiving mometasone significantly improved morning ($p=0.04$) and evening ($p=0.01$) TNSS, morning ($p=0.049$) and evening ($p=0.03$) nasal obstruction/blockage/congestion, daily peak nasal inspiratory flow ($p=0.03$), flow limitation index ($p=0.02$), Epworth Sleepiness Scale score ($p=0.048$), RQLQ-S score ($p=0.03$), and 2 of 5 WPAI-AS domains. Among patients receiving mometasone, TNSS improvements were significantly correlated with improved work-related and non-work-related productivity. In conclusion, patients using mometasone experienced improved nasal symptoms, sleepiness, and impairment in daily activities.

A double-blind, 4-week ($n=381$) efficacy and safety trial followed by a 6-month ($n=357$) open-label safety period was conducted to evaluate the efficacy and long-term safety of mometasone in children ages 3 to 11 years old with perennial allergic rhinitis.¹¹⁹ For the initial 4-week trial, patients were randomized to receive mometasone 100 mcg ($n=190$) or placebo ($n=191$); but during the 6-month continuation phase, patients only received mometasone. Within the first 15 days, the mometasone-treated group had significantly different physician evaluated TNSS scores ($p=0.02$). There were also statistically significant improvements in mometasone-treated patients based on self-evaluation of TNSS, total symptom score (TSS), and individual nasal symptom scores ($p\leq 0.03$). Improvement continued through the open-label period. Children treated with mometasone during both periods experienced a 45% further reduction in TSS in this study phase, while those who switched from placebo to mometasone saw a further 49% decrease. Mometasone was well-tolerated in both phases of this study. In conclusion, mometasone 100 mcg daily effectively reduces TNSS, TSS (including ocular symptoms), and individual symptoms associated with perennial allergic rhinitis and is well-tolerated for up to 6 months in children aged 3 to 11 years with a similar safety as placebo.

Two double-blind, placebo-controlled studies randomized symptomatic patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis ($n=684$) to 15 days of mometasone furoate nasal spray, 200 micrograms, or placebo daily each morning.¹²⁰ Participants scored individual components of total nasal symptom score (TNSS; congestion, rhinorrhea, sneezing, and itching) on a 4-point scale in the morning (A.M.) and evening (P.M.). Symptoms were scored for the time of assessment (NOW) and for the previous 12 hours (PRIOR). Change from baseline in A.M./P.M. PRIOR nasal congestion score averaged over days 1 to 15, the primary endpoint, was significantly ($p<0.001$) greater with mometasone furoate than with placebo (0.68-point [25.2%] reduction versus 0.45-point [16%] reduction, respectively). Reduction in A.M./P.M. PRIOR TNSS averaged over days 1 to 15, a key secondary endpoint, was also superior with mometasone (2.83 points [28.5%] versus 1.79 points [17.6%]; $p<0.001$). Predose A.M. NOW congestion, other nasal symptoms, and TNSS improved significantly more with mometasone furoate, indicating 24-hour efficacy. Adverse events were infrequent and localized.

SUMMARY

With the exception of systemic corticosteroids, intranasal corticosteroids are the most effective single agents for controlling the spectrum of allergic rhinitis symptoms, according to the 2008 American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) and 2015 American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery guidelines. Intranasal corticosteroids are generally not associated with systemic adverse effects in adults. Local adverse effects, such as nasal irritation and bleeding, may occur, but incidence is minimized if patients are carefully instructed in the use of drugs in this class. The nasal septum should be periodically examined to assure that there are no mucosal erosions that may precede development of nasal septal perforations, a complication rarely associated with intranasal corticosteroids.

Clinical trials have shown intranasal corticosteroids are similar in efficacy. Differences among products include the number of sprays needed per day and dosing frequency. Patient preference for products may also differ.

The intranasal antihistamines, azelastine (Astepro, combination Dymista) and olopatadine (Patanase) offer an alternative to intranasal corticosteroids, oral antihistamines, and intranasal ipratropium for treatment of allergic rhinitis. Factors limiting use of intranasal azelastine and olopatadine include route of administration and taste perversion.

Ipratropium nasal spray (Atrovent) is safe and effective for treatment of rhinorrhea associated with perennial allergic rhinitis and the common cold. The primary indication for the agent is treatment of patients with nonallergic perennial allergic rhinitis with rhinorrhea as the predominant symptom.

Ticanase and Ticaspray (fluticasone propionate) are co-packaged with saline nasal spray. Triamcinolone nasal spray (Nasacort Allergy 24HR), fluticasone propionate nasal spray (Flonase Allergy Relief), and budesonide nasal spray (Rhinocort Allergy) are available without a prescription.

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